



STATE OF WASHINGTON

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO Box 47721 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7721 • (360) 407-6200 • FAX (360) 407-6215

November 19, 2004

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Small Grants Program Application

Dear Ms. Owings,

The Conservation Commission is pleased to present this proposal for SRF Board review. We look forward to partnering with you to provide a straightforward, effective small grants program that will benefit salmon.

The Grassroots Action for Salmon Protection, Conservation District Small Grants Program is a salmon habitat restoration and protection program that will benefit native anadromous fish and their habitats on a statewide basis.

Incorporating the unique local conservation program delivery system of the Conservation Commission / Conservation Districts Partnership along with grassroots, community based support and opportunities for local and state entity partnering, this program will provide funding opportunities to the network of 48 conservation districts for a broad range of activities, including cost share for in-stream restoration, salmon habitat conservation planning and public education and outreach activities.

Please contact Mark Clark, Executive Director at 360 407-6201 if you require any further information or have any questions regarding this proposal.

Thank you,

Tracy Eriksen, Chair
Conservation Commission
PO Box 47721
Olympia, WA 98504

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**Washington State Conservation Commission Proposal
to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
for Development and Administration of the
Grassroots Action for Salmon Protection (GASP)
Conservation District Small Grants Program**

Funding Request: \$500,000

CC Admin: \$15,000 (3%)

Match: 1:1

Budget Breakout:

Grant Request:		
Grants to Conservation Districts	\$485,000	
Conservation Commission Admin	<u>\$15,000</u>	
		\$500,000
Match		
CD Grants Match	\$485,000	
Conservation Commission Match	<u>\$15,000</u>	
		\$500,000
Total Project Cost		<u>\$1,000,000</u>

Summary: The Grassroots Action for Salmon Protection, Conservation District Small Grants Program is a salmon habitat restoration and protection program that will benefit native anadromous fish and their habitats on a statewide basis.

Incorporating the unique local conservation program delivery system of the Conservation Commission / Conservation Districts Partnership along with grassroots, community based support and opportunities for local and state entity partnering, this program will provide funding opportunities to the network of 48 conservation districts for a broad range of activities, including cost share for in-stream restoration, salmon habitat conservation planning and public education and outreach activities.

Conservation Commission Capacity: The mission of the Washington State Conservation Commission is to lead the citizens of the state in the wise stewardship, conservation, and protection of soil, water, and related natural resources on private lands by providing structure and leadership for good governance by the conservation districts to provide education, technical assistance, and implementation of land management practices.

Managing \$20 million in grant funding for the 2003-05 Biennium, and over \$85 million in the prior 5 biennia, the Conservation Commission has the infrastructure

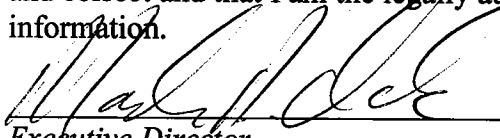
Funding will be distributed in two tiers through a random drawing of Conservation District applications according to the following criteria:


60% of Available Funding (\$291,000)	40% of Available Funding (\$194,000)
♦ Awarded by random drawing of all applications that commit 60% or more of their grant request to cost share	♦ Awarded by random drawing of all applications that commit less than 60% of their grant request to cost share

Cost Share Special Conditions --

- ♦ Cost Share is only available to high priority projects as documented through a Lead Entity Local Priority Setting Process.
- ♦ Cost share maximum is up to \$10,000 per landowner.
- ♦ Cost Share Rate for instream restoration activities: 75% cost share / 25% from other sources.
- ♦ In-stream Restoration Practices must meet the established Natural Resource Conservation Service, Field Office Technical Guides specifications, or are alternative practice designs approved by a professional engineer.
- ♦ Conservation District must utilize the Conservation Commission "Cost Share Application & Agreement".

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct and that I am the legally authorized signatory for the submittal of this information.


Executive Director
Conservation Commission


Date

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in place to effectively administer and manage the Conservation District Small Grants Program. Currently, the Commission administers grant funding to conservation districts for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, the Dairy Nutrient Management Program, the Puget Sound Work Plan Program, the Water Quality Implementation Program, the Professional Engineering Program, and the Irrigation Efficiencies Program.

Conservation District Capacity: Known for “Getting Conservation on the Ground”, the function of a conservation district is to take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources.

The 48 conservation districts in Washington State are subdivisions of state government and each are governed by a board of five volunteer supervisors. Conservation districts make a difference in that they each possess a local perspective, are run by locally elected people, guide voluntary solutions, address urban and rural issues, focus on best management practices, work in partnerships with local communities, connect landowners to programs that work and are economically productive, and match private dollars with public funds.

**Grassroots Action for Salmon Protection (GASP)
Conservation District Small Grants Program**

Budget: \$485,000

Maximum CD Grant Amount – Up to \$48,500 / Conservation District

Match – 1:1 (At least 25% must be local match i.e. landowner, volunteers, towns, cities, county, etc.)

CD Overhead – 10% of Grant Amount

Activities Eligible for Funding: Cost share for in-stream restoration, salmon habitat conservation planning, and public education and outreach activities.

Grant Application, Evaluation and Award Process – Grant Applications will incorporate a Statement of Agreed Project Priority List signed by all respective Lead Entity participants, and will place responsibility with the Conservation District for coordinating the Lead Entity Process to determine high priority cost share projects. Conservation districts will have 90 days to coordinate the Lead Entity Process and submit their grant applications.

The award process will place the highest environmental benefit on activities that result in “conservation on the ground”, and will make grant awards accordingly. Additionally, the award process will make the assumption that all Lead Entity Process high priority projects are of equal value.